# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AUSTIN DIVISION

*	)	CASE NO. 22-10293-TMD
In re:	)	CHAPTER 11
WC BRAKER PORTFOLIO, LLC,	)	
Debtor.	)	
	)	

DECLARATION OF HAROLD BORDWIN IN FURTHER SUPPORT OF TRUSTEE'S MOTION FOR AN ORDER APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING (A) THE SALE OF THE DEBTOR'S PROPERTY FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS, CLAIMS, RIGHTS, ENCUMBRANCES AND OTHER INTERESTS, AND (B) RELATED RELIEF

I, Harold J. Bordwin, hereby submit this declaration (the "<u>Declaration</u>") pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and declare under penalty of perjury that:

- 1. My name is Harold J. Bordwin. I am over the age of 18 years and am competent and otherwise qualified to make this Declaration. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein, and they are all true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- 2. I submit this Declaration in further support of the chapter 11 trustee's Motion for an Order Approving and Authorizing (A) the Sale of the Debtor's Property Free and Clear of All Liens, Claims, Rights, Encumbrances, and Other Interests and (B) Related Relief.<sup>1</sup>
- 3. I am a Principal and Co-President at Keen-Summit Capital Partners LLC ("Keen"). I have been employed by Keen since its formation on January 1, 2015, and by one or another of its predecessor firms since 1988. Keen specializes in selling real estate for debtors-in-possession and bankruptcy trustees. I have a B.A. degree from Wesleyan University (CT) and a JD degree from Georgetown University Law Center (DC). I am a licensed real estate broker in

\_

Capitalized terms used in this Declaration but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Motion.

several states and a FINRA licensed investment banker (on inactive status), holding series 7, 24, 63 and 79 licenses. I am a member of the California Bar Association (inactive status).

- 4. Current and recent real estate disposition and corporate finance projects include, among others: United States of America, Plaintiff v. All Business Assets of the Vicerov L'Ermitage Beverly Hills, Defendant, Case No. 16-05369-DSF (PLAx) (US DC, Central District of California) the \$100 million court-supervised sale of the L'Ermitage Beverly Hills Hotel (CA), one of the largest hospitality transactions of the year; In re Lighthouse Resources Inc., et al., Case No. 20-13056 (JTD) 5 lots of land totaling over 6,400+/- acres for \$8,495,000 combined (WY); In re Desert Land, LLC, Case No. 18-12454-GS/Desert Oasis Apartments, LLC, Case No. 18-12456-GS/Desert Oasis Investments, LLC, Case No. 18-12457-GS (Bankr. NV), \$111,600,000 sale of 38.56 acres of undeveloped land on the Las Vegas Strip (NV); In re Hermitage Inn Real Estate Holding Company, LLC et al., Case No. 19-10214-cab, \$8,060,000 sale of The Hermitage Club, a Vermont ski & golf country club (VT); SolAero Technologies Corp, \$11,000,000 sale-leaseback of the Albuquerque headquarters (NM); In re SunEdison, Inc., et al., Case No. 16-10992 (SMB), \$20,000,000 sale of a 700,000 s.f. manufacturing facility in Sherman (TX); In re Newbury Common Associates, LLC, et al., Case No. 15-12507 (LSS) (Bankr. D. Del.): sold 3 multifamily properties (231 units), a 115-room hotel, and 335,500 s.f. of office and flex space for \$148,240,000 (CT).
- 5. On October 31, 2022, the Court entered an Order approving the employment of Keen as the Trustee's marketing agent and broker [Dkt. No. 211]. Since the inception of Keen's engagement by the Trustee, I have been actively involved in all aspects of this sale.

### A. Marketing Efforts

6. The Debtor, WC Braker Portfolio, LLC, owns a portfolio of 13 single story office/flex buildings (Braker One, Braker A, B, D, E, F, G, I, J, M1-4) and Lonestar Center.

Keen prepared an extensive marketing plan and budget that was approved by the Trustee on November 4, 2022. The plan included print and digital advertising methods.

- 7. Prior to the start of the marketing plan, a stalking horse contract was signed with the secured lender for \$75,461,418.
- 8. At the direction of Keen, the Trustee authorized Keen to order property condition assessment reports and environmental reports for the entire portfolio.
- 9. Keen engaged in extensive marketing efforts, in accordance with the approved plan, highlighting the minimum overbid of \$75,836,418. Keen's marketing efforts, which began on December 5, 2022, included, without limitation, the following:
- (a) ordering a drone photography and video package showcasing each building in the portfolio;
- (b) creating marketing materials such as a confidential offering memorandum, made available in the virtual data room; and a teaser for the portfolio, which was widely distributed. The email distribution of the teaser went to, among others, Keen's proprietary databases, including approximately 10,000 Keen contacts as well as to various national real estate email distribution services, such as PropertyBlast (90,000 brokers and agents), PropertySend (65,000 buyers, developers, and agents), BigBoysBlast (9,000 private investment firms, individual investors, private equity funds and REITs and 95,000 real estate professionals) and trade publication lists from Texas Realtors;
- (c) creating a high-impact landing page to the secure virtual data room hosted by Real Capital Markets, www.austintx-officeportfolio-bankruptcysale.com;
- (d) using the internet site to: (i) introduce prospects to the properties via Real Capital Market's Marketplace and targeted investor blasts, (ii) host an electronic version of the Trustee's NDA, (iii) enable prospects to eSign the NDA, and (iv) thereby enable prospects to access the

Trustee's secure virtual data room:

- (e) The Trustee's secure virtual data room went live on December 6, 2022. Throughout the marketing period, additional information was made available by the Trustee and her professionals. Items posted to the data room included leases, financials, rent rolls, surveys, property condition reports, environmental assessment reports, title, tax information, insurance data, February 2019 appraisal, zoning information, tenant ledgers, city of Austin fire inspections, roof warranties, roof inspection reports, vendor contract, irrigation inspections, and related documents. As additional and updated information was made available in the virtual data room, email broadcasts were pushed out to prospects who executed the NDA. These broadcasts were sent on January 6, 11, 16, 18, 20, 27, 30 and February 2, 2023, alerting them to their availability and reminding them of the bid deadline and auction timing;
- (f) implementing print advertising (*The Wall Street Journal National and Southwest Editions* and the *Austin American Statesman*), digital advertising in eNewsletters (*Austin Business Journal, Commercial Property Executive, Dallas Business Journal, Globestreet National Spotlight, Multi-Housing Daily*, and *Texas Real Estate Business*) and via internet real estate listings (Keen-Summit.com, CoStar.com, LoopNet.com, CCIM, Crexi.com, and Real Capital Markets Marketplace); and
- (g) developing and distributing a press release on December 22, 2022 announcing the availability of the portfolio and approval of the auction bid procedures.
- 10. These extensive marketing efforts by Keen resulted in 263 prospects groups executing the non-disclosure agreements ("NDA") and provided access to the online data room. Keen's marketing called for bid packages to be submitted on the entire portfolio, only the office portfolio or only the retail strip center by the February 7, 2021 5pm CT bid deadline.
  - 11. Keen traveled to Austin on three separate occasions to conduct 15 tours of the

portfolio.

- (a) January 4 and 5, 2023 property tours were conducted for four active prospect groups.
- (b) January 16, 17 and 18, 2023 property tours were conducted for seven active prospect groups, one of which was a retour from the January 3 & 4 tours, who brought their architect and construction team.
- (c) January 31, February 1 and 2, 2023 property tours were conducted for four active prospect groups, one of which was a retour from the January 16-18 tours, who brought their construction team.

#### **B.** Bid Deadline and Auction

- 12. Keen received a total of 8 bid packages at the offer deadline, all of which were deemed qualified by the Trustee. The offers included:
- (a) 6 bid packages for the entire portfolio, including the stalking-horse; the highest bid received was for \$80,000,000 (eighty million dollars)
  - (b) 2 bid packages for the retail strip center only.
- 13. Following the receipt of bid packages, Keen circulated the offers and a summary spreadsheet on February 7, 2023 to the Trustee and her professionals. The Trustee, Trustee's professionals, and Keen reviewed the offers. Keen, in conjunction with the Trustee and her professionals, worked to confirm the qualifications of each bidder. Pursuant to the Bidding Procedures, Bidders were notified on February 9, 2023, that they were qualified to participate in the Auction.
- 14. On February 13, 2023, the Trustee, Trustee's professionals, and Keen met at the auction site at the Kelly Hart offices to coordinate the final logistics of the auction.
  - 15. On February 14, 2023, the Trustee, Trustee's professionals, Keen, qualified

bidder entities and their professionals, the U.S. Trustee, Nate Paul and his advisors, and a court

reporter participated in the live auction, in person and via the Zoom video meeting platform. The

two bidder groups interested in the retail strip center did not attend the auction in person. The six

qualified bidder groups for the entire portfolio were present both in person and with

representatives attending via Zoom. After discussing auction instructions and PSA matters, the

actual auction began at 2:30 p.m. CT with the highest qualified offer of \$80,000,000 (eighty

million dollars) with bid increments of \$250,000 (two-hundred fifty thousand dollars) and

concluded at approximately 4:30 p.m. CT after robust bidding of 89 (eighty-nine) bids.

16. Braker Metric Business Parks, LLC was announced to be the highest and best

offer on the entire portfolio with a bid of \$102,250,000 (one hundred two million two hundred

fifty thousand dollars) and is scheduled to close on or before February 28, 2023. Keen first

contacted a related entity, MIG Real Estate, LLC ("MIG"), through the Real Capital Markets

Marketplace December 7, 2022 email blast which targeted investor recipients meeting the

property listing criteria. MIG executed the NDA on January 5, 2023, and toured the property on

January 17 and January 31, 2023.

17. The back-up bid for the entire portfolio is ATX Braker SR, the stalking horse,

with an offer of \$102,000,000 (one hundred two million dollars).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true

and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated: February 22, 2023

New York, New York

Harold Bordwin

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on February 22, 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was electronically filed with the Court and served through the CM-ECF system to all counsel of record registered to receive a Notice of Electronic Filing for this case as indicated below:

# VIA ECF

**DEBTOR'S COUNSEL** 

Todd Brice Headden theadden@haywardfirm.com

Ron Satija rjatija@haywardfirm.com

# ATX BRAKER SR, LLC'S COUNSEL

Elizabeth Boydston <a href="mailto:lboydston@polsinelli.com">lboydston@polsinelli.com</a>

Keith R. Martorana KMartorana@gibsondunn.com

Matthew G. Bouslog MBouslog@gibsondunn.com

### UNITED STATES TRUSTEE

John C. Roy casey.roy@usdoj.gov

### ADDITIONAL ECF PARTIES

Stephen J. Humeniuk, Counsel for Airship Syndicate Entertainment, Inc.

stephen.humeniuk@lockelord.com

Stephen Lemmon, Counsel for Alliance Transportation Group, Inc. lemon@slollp.com,

Seth E. Meisel, Counsel for Caffrey & Company, LLC smeisel@dbcllp.com,

Kimberly A. Walsh, Counsel for Texas Comptroller of Public, Accounts, Revenue Accounting

Division bk-kwalsh@oag.texas.gov

Richard Grant, Counsel for Seth Kretzer rgrant@cm.law

Lynnette Warman, Counsel for Seth Kretzer lwarman@cm.law

Jason A. Starks, Counsel for Travis County, bkecf@traviscountytx.gov

Ivo Keller, Counsel for Owlchemistry Labs, Inc. ivo@ssllawfirm.com

John Patrick Lowe, pat.lowe.law@gmail.com

Brian Talbot Cumings, bcumings@gdhm.com

Michael Deitch, Counsel for Endeavor Real Estate Group, Ltd. mike@deitchlaw.com

/s/ Nancy Ribaudo
Nancy Ribaudo